(b) the States which have already brought out such annual reports and which are likely to publish them this year; and

(c) whether any assistance, financial or technical has been taken from UNDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Governemnts which have brought out their Human Development Reports (HDRs) are Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Sikkim, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The State Governments which are now in the process of preparing their State HDRs are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. Out of these, the States which are likely to publish their reports this year are Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Yes, Sir. Under the UNDP Project "Capacity Building for Preparation of State Human Development Reports", financial and technical assistance is being provided to the State Governments for holding Workshops and for accessing the services of professionals and experts.

National Human Development Report

990. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per National Human Development Report—2001 the poverty in the country has declined during the last two decades;

(b) whether the conditions in poor States like Bihar and Orissa have worsened as the report has revealed;

(c) if so, the steps initiated by Government to bring the poor States at par with development States in the matter of development; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes,

Sir. As per the estimate of the Planning Commission quoted in the National Human Development Report- 2001, the incidence of poverty at the national level declined from 44.48 per cent of the population in 1983 to 26.10 per cent in 1999-2000. In absolute terms, the number of poor declined from about 323 million in 1983 to 260 million in 1999-2000.

(b) Among the major States, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu had more than 50 per cent of their population below the poverty line in 1983. By 1999-2000, while Tamil Nadu and West Bengal had reduced their poverty ratios by nearly half, Orissa and Bihar continued to be the two poorest States with poverty ratio of 47 and 43 per cent respectively.

(c) and (d) The poverty estimates are used as the criterion for allocation of funds under the major rural poverty alleviation programmes. Hence, the poorer States stand to benefit relatively more in terms of allocation of resources for their efforts towards alleviation of poverty in their States.

Failure of scientific institutions to attract adequate manpower

991. SHRI S.K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has sounded an alarm about the failure of the scientific institutions to attract adequate manpower as science has few takers among youths;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Indian science has failed to contribute much while comparing with other countries not to speak of developed countries, as there is little incentives for scientific research and development; and

(c) if so, what steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Steering Committee on Science and Technology for the Tenth Five Year Plan constituted by the Planning Commission has recognized that talented students are generally not prone to opt for a job in science because they do not see it as a rewarding and satisfying career. Indian science has made significant contribution both in basic research as well as technology development